

**CONCLUSION**I think that the eradication of the coypu in Britain was beneficial not only for the environment and human safety, but for the unemployed, they were given incentives to ensure the success of the eradication campaign and the employed trappers were paid a bonus if the campaign was successful. Furthermore, the eradication of the coypu also meant those areas of reed swamps returned and the prevention of extensive damage to the local ecosystem as well as local agriculture.

Map showing coypu distribution across Europe

**CONSEQUENCES AND SOLUTIONS**  
Coypu farming is a short-term investment, this means that coypu are either released back into the wild or escape due to unprofitable operations; reasons for this include the decline in demand for coypu fur. By 1945, all coypu fur farms were closed down.

This has lead to a growth in the number of coypu, in the 1960s, it was estimated that there were around 200 000 coypu in the UK. Coypu are considered pests, as they are very destructive.

Destroying native aquatic vegetation and marshes, chewing through human items and damaging irrigation systems. They also damaged agricultural crops, mainly cereals and root crops reducing output. The detrimental effects of the coypu caused the elimination of large areas of reed swamps, as they fed on basal meristems, plants that contain large nutrient concentrations. This meant that birds and mammals including

Coypu also carry a type of parasite that can be passed on to humans causing forms of dermatitis, diarrhea and abdominal pains.

Damaging to drainage and irrigation systems caused economic issues as well as increased risk of flooding in East Anglia. Coypu would create burrows in ditches and dykes. This meant that two initiatives were started to control the growing coypu population. These included trapping and shooting in densely populated coypu areas. Following cold winters and new protocols meant that the coypu population diminished and were declared eradicated from the UK in 1989 as none were caught in 21 months.

**WHAT?**  
Coypu are a form of rodent originally native to South America. They are aquatic animals that feed on plants near the water’s edge and make their homes in burrows in riverbanks or those of streams.

**WHERE AND WHEN?**   
Coypu originate from South America and were introduced to East Anglia in Britain in 1929.

**WHY?**They were introduced to Britain as well as many part of Europe for farming for their fur. The development of coypu fur farms occurred due to local extinction from overharvesting.

COYPU